

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 20 were pending at the time of examination. Claims 6-19 are withdrawn from consideration. No claims have been amended or added. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on these remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,527,262 to Hagino et al. (hereinafter “Hagino”). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

First, it should be noted that the present invention relates to a technique for readily establishing consistent positioning of an output member with respect to an actuator housing (see paragraph [0009] of the specification). As is well known in the art, an active vibration damping device needs an actuator in order to generate an oscillating force that is well controlled in terms of frequency and phase. To meet this end, an accurate positioning of the output member and the actuator housing is needed, but it requires a sophisticated care in positioning, leading to a low efficiency in manufacturing of the actuator (see paragraph [0007] of the specification).

In particular, claim 1 recites:

“a positioning projection formed at an inside peripheral edge of the fixing member by projecting the inside peripheral edge of the fixing member in cylindrical configuration in an axial direction towards an inside of the housing with a projected distal end thereof being projected in flange-like configuration toward an outside,

the positioning projection provided for positioning the fixing member relatively in an axis-perpendicular direction with respect to an inner circumferential surface of the housing at a location situated inward by a predetermined distance from the opening of the housing”

That is, according to the present invention, as defined in claim 1, a positioning projection 92 is formed at an inside peripheral edge of an annular fixing member that is connected to the output member via a support rubber interposed therebetween, so that when the guide rod of the output member is inserted in the axial direction into the actuator housing to assemble them, the positioning projection provides positioning action in the axis-perpendicular direction prior to the output member reaching the final assembly position relative to the housing. Thus, by only inserting the guide rod of the output member into the guide hole of the actuator housing,

positioning action in the axis-perpendicular direction can be afforded by means of the positioning projection (see paragraph [0013] of the specification).

In contrast, Hagino is silent about a positioning projection for positioning the output member with respect to the actuator housing. Hagino shows an electromagnetic oscillating device (that is, an actuator) disposed below the fluid-filled vibration-damping device (col. 12, lines 29-47). This actuator is fixed to a connecting block 49 of the vibration-damping device by means of the fixing bolt 134 extending through an output shaft of the electromagnetic oscillating device (col. 13, lines 31-35). However, Hagino fails to teach a technique for positioning the output shaft of the electromagnetic oscillating device with respect to an actuator housing 124. While the Examiner acknowledges that the member 59 in FIG. 1 of Hagino is a positioning projection, the member 59 is fixed to the housing of the vibration damping device, and cannot function as a positioning member upon assembling the output shaft of the electromagnetic oscillating device with the actuator housing 124.

For at least these reasons, the present invention as described in claims 1-5 and 20, respectively, is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Hagino. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-5 and 20 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

The applicants hereby petition for a one month extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. KASAP052).

Respectfully submitted,
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